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Letter dated 8 February 2008 from the Secretary-General to the President of the Security Council

Pursuant to Security Council resolution 1244 (1999), I have the honour to convey the attached report on the international security presence in Kosovo covering the period from 1 to 31 December 2007 (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would bring it to the attention of the members of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) **Ban** Ki-moon

08-23603 (E) 190208

Annex

Letter dated 30 January 2008 from the Secretary-General of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization to the Secretary-General

In accordance with paragraph 20 of Security Council resolution 1244 (1999), I attach a report on the operations of the Kosovo Force covering the period from 1 to 31 December 2007. I would appreciate your making this report available to the members of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Japp **de Hoop Scheffer**

Enclosure

Monthly report to the United Nations on the operations of the Kosovo Force

1. This report covers the period from 1 to 31 December 2007.

2. As at 31 December 2007, the total number of troops in theatre was 15,002. This includes 2,357 troops from non-NATO countries.

Political situation

3. The Troika completed its mandate on 10 December 2007 shortly after the Contact Group submitted its report on the Troika-led status negotiation process to the Secretary-General of the United Nations. Subsequently, the Security Council discussed the report and the situation in Kosovo at a closed-door session on 19 December 2007.

4. At their meeting in Brussels on 7 December 2007, NATO Foreign Ministers agreed that troops of the Kosovo Force (KFOR) would remain in Kosovo on the basis of Security Council resolution 1244 (1999), unless the Security Council decided otherwise. They also renewed their commitment to maintain the national force contributions to KFOR, including reserves, at current levels and with no new caveats.

Security situation

5. On 2 December 2007, an explosion was reported in a bar in Prizren in south-western Kosovo, which injured seven people. The motive remains unclear. Authorities believe rival gangs involved in human trafficking could be behind this attack.

6. On 6 December 2007, Multinational Task Force Centre and the Kosovo Police Service (KPS) reported that a civilian bus with 40 passengers of different ethnicities had been stopped by 10 masked and armed men on the administrative boundary line. No one was harmed and the bus eventually continued on its way under police escort.

7. On 10 December 2007, a student demonstration sponsored by the Albanian Student Union group took place in downtown Pristina. There were approximately 1,800 to 2,000 participants. No incidents were reported.

8. On 18 December 2007, a Kosovo Serb demonstration took place in Mitrovica North (Multinational Task Force North). The demonstration, organized by the Serbian National Council of Northern Kosovo, was attended by approximately 2,500 participants. No incidents were reported.

9. On 21 December 2007, the former Prime Minister of Kosovo, Ramush Haradinal, and his associate Laji Brahimaj, were provisionally released by the International Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia to spend the holidays and New Year in Kosovo until 7 January 2008.

10. During December 2007 no incidents against KFOR were recorded. The threat level against KFOR remained low.

11. A total of 484 incidents related to drugs (5), counterfeit currency (54), smuggling (24), explosions (6), miscellaneous criminal incidents (240), illegal weapons possession (80), weapons and ammunition seizures (42) and unexploded

ordnance (33) were reported during this period. The total number of incidents has slightly increased compared to November 2007 (417).

KFOR operations

12. The overall situation in Kosovo remained calm but tense throughout December 2007. All multinational task forces continued to focus on interoperability and intelligence gathering while conducting high-visibility operations throughout Kosovo to deter any possible attempt at destabilization and to maintain the safe and secure environment. The operational reserve force battalion, provided by Germany, deployed for an additional operational rehearsal from 16 November to 16 December 2007. KFOR also conducted an operational rehearsal from 1 to 7 December 2007 for the 2008 operational reserve force battalions from Germany, the United Kingdom and Italy and for the European Union Force tactical reserves. The Commander of KFOR updated his guidance to his subordinate commanders in December, directing them to be able to react quickly, to maintain mobility and flexibility, to ensure KFOR freedom of action, to coordinate with UNMIK police and the Kosovo Police Service, and to stress the importance of the reserves.

Compliance

13. During the month of December, there was one session of the disciplinary board of the Kosovo Protection Corps (KPC) which resulted in the dismissal of four KPC members. Two of these members are from minority communities.

Kosovo Protection Corps

14. There was no recruitment campaign in December 2007.

15. The current active personnel establishment is 2,908. There are 193 (6.63 per cent) active ethnic minority members (169 male, 24 female). The total number of ethnic minorities remains the same compared to last month. The percentage of minorities within KPC remains short of the goal established by the Special Representative of the Secretary-General and there are 113 open posts left in the active personnel establishment list. The reserve list includes 2,000 positions, with 1,892 filled (including 48 ethnic minority members, which equates to 2.45 per cent).

16. Training of the KPC members continues according to plan. A joint KPC/KFOR senior leader seminar on the subject of strategic communications was conducted at KPC headquarters on 26 December 2007 with 22 participants and at the training and doctrine centre on 27 December 2007 with 20 LTC and MAJ participants. English language courses continued at the centre with 150 KPC participants.

17. During the month of December, 13 ceremonies involving 387 KPC members took place. No incidents were reported.

Conclusion

18. The situation remained calm and stable despite continued political uncertainty related to Kosovo's future status. Planning for the post-resettlement period continues. KFOR remains fully prepared to deal with unrest and would respond adequately to any attempt to disrupt the safe and secure environment, regardless of where it comes from.